

Texas Vaccine Providers Webinar Highlights – March 1, 2022

Review the highlights of the topics covered in the March 1st webinar below or view the [full recording](#) for detailed information.

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

- The intervals between the 1st and 2nd dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary series have been extended.
 - mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are FDA-approved or authorized for a **3-week** (Pfizer vaccine) or **4-week** (Moderna vaccine) interval between the first and second dose.
 - A 3- or 4-week interval continues to be the [recommended interval](#) for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, adults ages 65 years and older, and others who need rapid protection due to increased concern about community transmission or risk of severe disease.
 - mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at the FDA-approved or FDA-authorized intervals, but a **longer interval may be considered for some populations**.
 - While absolute risk remains small, the relative risk for myocarditis is **higher for males ages 12-39 years, and this risk might be reduced by extending the interval between the first and second dose**.
 - Some studies in adolescents (ages 12-17 years) and adults have shown the small risk of myocarditis associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines might be reduced and peak antibody responses and vaccine effectiveness may be increased with an interval longer than 4 weeks.
 - Extending the interval beyond 8 weeks has not been shown to provide additional benefit.
 - There are currently no data available for children ages 11 years and younger.
 - **Therefore, an 8-week interval may be optimal for some people ages 12 years and older, especially for males ages 12–39 years.**
- Providers are encouraged to review this [infographic](#) for more information on COVID-19 Vaccination Schedules.

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Resources

- Providers should refer to [Pfizer's](#), [Moderna's](#), and [J&J's](#) COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer websites for useful information relating to vaccine expiration, temperature excursions, storage and handling, and more.

COVID-19 Vaccine Product Ordering Updates

- Providers experiencing discrepancies with their COVID-19 vaccine inventory in VAOS should contact the VacShipments team by email at COVID19VacShipments@dshs.Texas.gov or by phone at **(833) 832-7068, option 2** for assistance making inventory corrections. Please keep in mind that inventory can take **up to 5 days** to update in VAOS.
- Providers are required to report COVID-19 vaccine waste in VAOS daily within the "Enter Vaccine Loss" module. Remember to use the "Quantity Consumed" field to **enter the number of doses wasted** (the number of doses you were not able to administer from the vial). Refer to the [COVID-19 Vaccine Waste job aid](#) and the [COVID-19 Vaccine Waste e-Learning video](#) for detailed instructions on reporting waste in VAOS.

Provider Resources:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Management Resources \(training and support materials\)](#)
- [ImmTrac2 User Training Site](#)
- [ImmTrac2 Forms and Documents](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Enrollment Information](#)
- [CDC Clinical Considerations for or Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- DSHS Provider Help Desk: (833) 832-7068, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; Email: COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov

Live Q&A:

Below are some of the questions DSHS subject matter experts answered during the webinar's live Q&A sessions.

- For mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, what is the maximum amount of time that can lapse between a client receiving a 1st dose and a 2nd dose before the client should restart the series?
- Once a vial of COVID-19 vaccine is punctured and the syringe is drawn up, can the vial be placed back into the refrigerator?
- Can we draw up and administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine before it reaches room temperature?
- If an 11-year-old client receives two doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (orange cap), can the client receive a booster dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (gray cap) upon turning 12 years old?
- Should we track COVID-19 vaccine temperatures using a COVID-19 vaccine-specific temperature log?

